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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 28 totaled an estimated 15.6 billion ton-miles, 10.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Thanksgiving holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 48 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 870.0 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended November 28 totaled 341,846, up 9.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 21.2 percent below the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 10.3 percent in the East and 8.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 6,736 cars (7.1 percent), metallic ores showed a gain of 3,111 cars (23.9 percent), loadings of metals and products were up 2,517 cars (39.4 percent), and chemicals and allied products increased by 2,490 cars (13.0 percent). All of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended November 21 totaled 107,649 trailers and/or containers, 4.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 47 weeks of the year was 4,671,367 trailers and/or containers, up 2.6 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/28/87:

	Loadings in Week ended November 28, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,909	I	190	0.8	D	6,637	21.7
Other farm products	2,943	D	585	16.6	D	634	17.7
Metallic ores	16,153	I	3,111	23.9	D	2,656	14.1
Coal	101,461	I	6,736	7.1	D	28,228	21.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,194	I	1,667	19.5	D	4,710	31.6
Nonmetallic minerals	6,381	D	648	9.2	D	4,089	39.1
Grain mill products	9,600	I	430	4.7	D	1,498	13.5
Food and kindred products	9,121	I	394	4.5	D	2,788	23.4
Primary forest products	7,176	I	147	2.1	D	3,420	32.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,007	I	348	6.1	D	1,959	24.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,264	D	771	6.4	D	160	1.4
Chemicals and allied products	21,707	I	2,490	13.0	D	4,961	18.6
Petroleum products	3,930	I	541	16.0	D	875	18.2
Stone, clay and glass products	8,177	I	829	11.3	D	2,068	20.2
Coke	5,251	I	1,684	47.2	D	292	5.3
Metals and products	8,904	I	2,517	39.4	D	1,044	10.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,172	I	1,368	10.7	D	6,681	32.0
Waste and scrap materials	7,384	I	1,668	29.2	D	2,862	27.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,185	D	272	11.1	D	216	9.0
All other carloads	65,927	I	7,747	13.3	D	18,023	21.5
Total Cars Loaded	341,846	I	29,591	9.5	D	93,801	21.5
Corresponding week of 1986	312,255						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (48 weeks)	19,229,205	18,353,157	I 4.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
47 Weeks ended November 21	854.3 (Rev.)	796.5	I 7.3
Week ended November 28	15.6	14.2	I 10.3
48 Weeks cumulative	870.0	810.6	I 7.3

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